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### In Memoriam Prof. Dr. Bela Bohus May 10, 1936 - September 19, 2000

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## Obituary

### In Memoriam Prof. Dr. Bela Bohus

May 10, 1936 -September 19, 2000

Last year, on September 19, Professor Bela Bohus passed away on his way home, after his last lecture of a series for undergraduate students in Biology. Bela Bohus was fulltime professor in Zoology, in particular Neurobiology, at the School of Biology of the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. He was trained as a medical doctor and clinical chemist at the University of Pécs in Hungary. In 1969, he obtained his Ph. D. with Professor Lissak and Professor Endrőczy at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest with specializations in physiology, biochemistry and genetics. In 1970, Bohus moved with his family to Utrecht, where he further specialized in behavioural pharmacology at the Rudolf Magnus Institute of Pharmacology of the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands, headed by Professor David de Wied. This period in Utrecht was scientifically highly productive. His research involved the role of neuropeptides such as ACTH and vasopressin in learning and memory processes. At the same time, he kept an active interest in the interaction between neuropeptides and adrenal steroids in behavioural adaptation to stress. In 1982, he was appointed at the Department of Animal Physiology of the University of Groningen as a full professor in zoology, with special emphasis on neurobiology. With Bela's inspiring energy and enthusiasm, the Department obtained an important international position in the scientific area of the neurobiology and neuroendocrinology of stress and adaptation. In the course of his scientific career of almost 40 years, Bela published 220 full-length articles in international scientific journals and about 130 book chapters.

Presenting his work and that of his collaborators at scientific meetings was one of his great passions, and we all will remember his contributions to the discussions of a broad range of scientific and non-scientific topics. His scientific oeuvre is difficult to summarize in a few words. Bohus had a very broad scientific interest, ranging far beyond his specific area of the relationship between hormones, brain and behaviour. He had a phenomenal overview of the scientific literature. His views on brain and behaviour were principally reductionistic and mechanistic, but at the same time, he had a good sense for the biology of the organism in its natural environment and the biomedical significance of the results obtained in animal models.

Bela Bohus was a respected member of the editorial board of several scientific journals, including *Stress*, and was active on the boards of various national and international scientific organizations. From 1996 until 1999 he served as the president of the International Society for Psychoneuroendocrinology. He took the initiative for a successful academic undergraduate training program in medical biology and for the graduate school in Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience.

We will remember his energy, his enthusiasm and his total commitment to behavioural neuroscience. We miss Bela as a good colleague and personal friend.

J.M. Koolhaas\*

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